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## Reports

### Item#1

Advanced Economies: Minutes to Midnight Part I. YaleGlobal. David Dapice. April 28, 2011.

Advanced economies face momentous decisions to sustain their prosperity and lifestyles. The brief reviews the challenges faced by the U.S. and the Eurozone. In 1917 the U.S. Congress passed statutory limits, unusual by world standards, for issuing bonds, to avoid separate approval on every issue. The ceiling has been raised many times since to the current limit, \$14.294 trillion. The U.S. borrows about 40 cents of every dollar it spends. Any signal of default or refusing to put financial affairs in order would unnerve credit markets, hike interest rates and erode the dollar's status as the world's reserve currency. Long-term obligations on military spending, retirement pensions and health care are out of control, argues the author. To reduce massive deficits, U.S. politicians must slash spending or raise taxes. The easiest place for cuts is following Canada's lead in health care: Canada spends about half what the U.S. spends per capita and achieves better results.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/advanced-economies-minutes-midnight-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

### Item#2

Advanced Economies: Minutes to Midnight? Part II. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. May 2, 2011.

To encourage growth, governments borrowed to finance infrastructure and current expenditures, and anticipated revenues to eventually cover the costs. Low interest rates led to surging debt, investment bubbles and unrealistic growth projections rather than a sustainable economy with jobs and tax revenues. Europe had hoped to slow debt contagion by creating bailout funds and assisting weakest members, explains the author. Financiers impose higher borrowing costs for unsustainable policies, and more rescues could be needed. The U.S. wages its own battle on debt, leaving intervention to the G20, emerging BRICS or possibly Beijing acting alone. Citizens reject tax hikes, program cuts or aid for other nations that have overspent. But the desperate struggles of a few could spread damage in the interconnected web of government finance and drag the globe back into recession.

*[Note: contains copyrighted].*

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/advanced-economies-minutes-midnight-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

### Item#3

After bin Laden: Next Steps to Winning the Long War. The Heritage Foundation. James Carafano. May 2, 2011.

Mark the end of Osama bin Laden as a victory in the long war against terrorism, but as President Obama acknowledged in his address announcing the operation, the war is not over. The President and Congress should renew their resolve to finish the job, which will require continued commitment, says the author.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://thf\\_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/wm3240.pdf](http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/wm3240.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

#### Item#4

Beyond Red vs. Blue: The Political Typology. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. May 4, 2011.

With the economy still struggling and the nation involved in multiple military operations overseas, the public's political mood is fractious. In this environment, many political attitudes have become more doctrinaire at both ends of the ideological spectrum, a polarization that reflects the current atmosphere in Washington. Yet at the same time, a growing number of Americans are choosing not to identify with either political party, and the center of the political spectrum is increasingly diverse. Rather than being moderate, many of these independents hold extremely strong ideological positions on issues such as the role of government, immigration, the environment and social issues. But they combine these views in ways that defy liberal or conservative orthodoxy.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://people-press.org/2011/05/04/beyond-red-vs-blue-the-political-typology/> [HTML format with links, 158 pages].

#### Item#5

A Blow to al-Qaeda. Council on Foreign Relations. Deborah Jerome. May 2, 2011.

The death of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in a U.S. operation in Pakistan marks a triumph for the United States, although the lasting impact on the U.S.-led "war on terror" is uncertain, says the author.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.cfr.org/terrorism/blow-al-qaeda/p24848> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#6

Chemical Facility Security: Issues and Options for the 112th Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Dana A. Shea. April 19, 2011.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has statutory authority to regulate chemical facilities for security purposes. The 112th Congress extended this authority through October 4, 2011. The 111th Congress debated the scope and details of reauthorization. Some members of Congress supported an extension, either short or long term, of the existing authority. Other Members called for revision and more extensive codification of chemical facility security regulatory provisions. The tension between continuing and changing the statutory authority was exacerbated by questions regarding the current law's effectiveness in reducing chemical facility risk and the sufficiency of federal funding for chemical

facility security. The DHS is in the process of implementing the authorized regulations, called chemical facility anti-terrorism standards (CFATS).

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R41642.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

#### Item#7

Clean Water: Foundation of Healthy Communities and a Healthy Environment. The White House. April 27, 2011.

"Recognizing the importance of clean water for healthy people, a healthy economy, and a healthy environment, the Obama Administration is working hard on a broad array of programs and initiatives to protect and enhance the Nation's waters. The purpose of this document is to highlight important, ongoing initiatives at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Department of the Interior (DOI), together with their other Federal partners, to protect our vital water resources."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/Clean%20Water%20Framework.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

#### Item#8

The Deciders: Facebook, Google, and the Future of Privacy and Free Speech. Brookings Institution. Jeffrey Rosen. May 2, 2011.

The author stresses the complexity of protecting constitutional values like privacy and free speech in the age of Google and Facebook, which are not formally constrained by the Constitution. In each of his examples, 24/7 Facebook surveillance, blob machines, escaping your Facebook past, and promoting free speech on YouTube and Google, it's possible to imagine a rule or technology that would protect free speech and privacy, while also preserving security, a blob-machine like solution. But in some areas, those blob-machine-like solutions are more likely, in practice, to be adopted than others. Engaged minorities may demand blob machines when they personally experience their own privacy being violated; but they may be less likely to rise up against the slow expansion of surveillance cameras, which transform expectations of privacy in public.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0502\\_free\\_speech\\_rosen/0502\\_free\\_speech\\_rosen.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0502_free_speech_rosen/0502_free_speech_rosen.pdf) [PDF format, 14 pages].

#### Item#9

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Terrorism Investigations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jerome P. Bjelopera and Mark Randol. April 28, 2011.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI, the Bureau) is the lead federal law enforcement agency charged with counterterrorism investigations. Since the September 11, 2001 (9/11) attacks, the FBI has implemented a series of reforms intended to transform itself from a largely reactive law enforcement agency focused on investigations of criminal activity into a more proactive, agile, flexible, and intelligence-driven agency that can prevent acts of terrorism. The report provides background

information on key elements of the FBI terrorism investigative process based on publicly available information.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41780.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages].

#### Item#10

Immigrants in the United States: How Well Are They Integrating into Society? Migration Policy Institute. Tomas R. Jimenez. May 2011.

Even though immigration is intertwined with the history of the U.S., fears about immigrants' ability to integrate remain an area of concern. Yet an examination of immigrants' integration across five major indicators, language proficiency, socioeconomic attainment, political participation, residential locale, and social interaction with host communities, shows they are integrating reasonably well. Remarkably, the process has unfolded almost entirely without policy intervention. The author examines the laissez faire policy approach to integration, raising concerns about how the state of public education and size of the U.S. unauthorized population may remain powerful barriers to immigrants' full social, economic, and political integration.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/integration-jimenez.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

#### Item#11

Melting Pot Cities and Suburbs: Racial and Ethnic Change in Metro America in the 2000s. Brookings Institution. William H. Frey. May 4, 2011.

Old images of race and place in America are changing rapidly. Nowhere are these shifts more apparent than in major U.S. cities and their suburbs. An analysis of data from the 1990, 2000, and 2010 decennial censuses reveals that Hispanics now outnumber blacks and represent the largest minority group in major American cities, among others.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0504\\_census\\_ethnicity\\_frey/0504\\_census\\_ethnicity\\_frey.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0504_census_ethnicity_frey/0504_census_ethnicity_frey.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

#### Item#12

Race and Beyond: Osama's Death Unites Americans that Came of Age After 9/11. Center for American Progress. Sam Fulwood III. May 3, 2011.

"So what now that Osama bin Laden is dead? The young people still fear terrorism. But could it really be that the worst of the terrorist nightmare, the scourge of a generation, has eased? If so, that helps explain the conflicted and complicated reactions of the young people who spilled into the streets. They were there to be among their peers, in the mix of relief and hope. To cheer, chant, and sing of an America they've never known and so desperately want to hold," says the author.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/05/rab\\_050311.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/05/rab_050311.html) [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#13

State Policies to Improve the Effectiveness of School Principals. National Governors Association. Tabitha Grossman. April 26, 2011.

Effective principals improve the retention of our best teachers and the outcomes of students, according to the brief. While every school can benefit from an effective school principal, the quality of leadership is particularly important in schools that are chronically low-performing. As states look for ways to turn around low-performing schools and improve the overall quality of education, the report recommends focusing on improving the preparation, training and evaluation of principals.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1104SCHOOLPRINCIPALS.PDF> [PDF format, 12 pages].

#### Item#14

Western Aid: The Missing Link for North Korea's Economic Revival? American Enterprise Institute. Nicholas Eberstadt. April 26, 2011.

Despite a decade and a half of charitable assistance, North Korea remains on the verge of another eruption of mass hunger. So is effective international humanitarian aid to the DPRK conceivable?

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Updated-Eberstadt-DPWorkingPaper-April2011.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages].

#### Item#15

Why China Overheats. American Enterprise Institute. John H. Makin. May 2, 2011.

Despite efforts to rein it in, China's inflation rate has reached a point where it is sparking social unrest. Chinese premier Wen Jiabao's recent comment that inflation is a tiger that "once set free is very difficult to put back in its cage" aptly characterizes the current inflation in his country. The world's second-largest economy faces some fundamental choices if it is to restore stability, says the author.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/EO-2011-05-g.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].